

TOWN/UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, May 12, 2015  
Council Chambers, Beck Municipal Building

**Minutes**

**Present:** J. Armstrong, P. Barry, J. Coite, M. Gilbert, M. Hart, M. Kirk (4:15 p.m.), E. Paterson, N. Silander

**Staff:** L. Painter, C. van Zelm (*MDP*)

Meeting was called to order at 4:09 pm by Paterson.

**1. Meeting Minutes**

a. Silander MOVED, Barry seconded approval of the April 14, 2015 minutes with the correction of the date of the Town Square ribbon cutting to May 29, 2015. The motion PASSED unanimously.

**2. Acquisition of Bergin CI**

Kirk updated the Committee on the status of the Bergin Correctional Facility. The property was surplussed by the Department of Corrections; UConn's bid for the property was accepted by OPM so the university is the new owner. The razor wire fence will be removed and they are evaluating potential uses. It will be multi-purpose; however, no housing is anticipated.

**3. UCONN Spring Weekend**

Hart distributed a handout on UConn Police Department statistics for infractions on Spring Weekend for years spanning 2009 to 2015 showing a significant reduction. Armstrong noted that UConn did not have any referrals from the State Police for activities over the weekend. Campus events were well attended. Barry questioned whether changes in spring weekend were resulting in spreading out over more weekends and putting a burden on the Town. Hart noted that most of the activity occurs in the Fall.

Hart mentioned a large off-campus party held in April at 1096 Storrs Road by the SAE fraternity that is no longer recognized by the University. Armstrong noted that the university is reaching out to educate students through the Inter Fraternity Council. He also noted that with regard to the size of the event in question, there is also a responsibility on the part of the landlord to manage the property, which in this case is owned by the fraternity. They are also monitoring social media for events; through that monitoring they were able to stop 3 large parties from happening this spring.

Armstrong updated the Committee on two successful events organized completely by students working with UConn Off-Campus Student Services and State Police.

Hart noted that UConn police provided additional assistance in patrols in the weekends leading up to commencement and expressed appreciation for the assistance.

Silander expressed an interest in seeing the level of activities and policies continue in the future; Gilbert noted that there are no plans to change policies in the future.

#### **4. Updates:**

a. *Mansfield Tomorrow*. Painter noted that the public hearing is scheduled for May 18, 2015.

b. *Mansfield Downtown Partnership*. van Zelm provided an update on the status of the project. The Oaks are 100% leased for all phases, including those under construction. The ribbon cutting for the Town Square is scheduled for May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.; the event will include a concert on the stage. Storrs Center has received an award for excellence in Planning from the Connecticut Main Street Center; Paterson will be attending the awards ceremony. Hart noted that there was significant activity in the square over commencement weekend.

c. *USG*. Sargeant noted that the Family Movie Night was very successful.

d. *MCCP*. UConn will be hosting an active shooter training session in June. Armstrong will be meeting with the Mayor to discuss next steps for the group.

#### **5. Other Business**

Paterson updated the committee on the Youth Services recognition event for student volunteers and expressed appreciation for their efforts on behalf of the community. She also attended the service on campus for victims of the Nepal earthquake.

Barry noted that he has served on the committee since its inception in 1993 and discussed how committee interaction has changed over the years from adversarial to collaborative and commended the committee on its progress. However, Barry noted that he has tendered his resignation and that this will be his last meeting. Paterson thanked him for his service; audience and committee members thanked him for his service with a round of applause.

#### **5. Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee**

John Sobanik questioned what the impact of the proposed state budget cuts will have on the growth projections for NextGenCT, including whether new residence halls are still in the pipeline. Kirk noted that one of the halls is under construction with a planned opening for Fall 2016; the Honors hall is still under design. No delays in residence hall construction are anticipated. Enrollment is expected to continue to increase; however, that will be dependent on annual operating budget allocations. Planned STEM enrollment growth for next year is 250 undergraduate students; there is also enrollment growth unrelated to NextGen.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda M. Painter, AICP, Director of Planning and Development  
Town of Mansfield